

All hijacked passengers released

ROME (R) — All 91 passengers and six crew members on board a Dutch plane hijacked to Rome were released unharmed on Wednesday, Italian Transport Minister Calogero Mannino said. Mr. Mannino told reporters at Rome's Fiumicino airport: "All passengers and crew have been released after brief but intense negotiations." Mr. Mannino said police had arrested the Dutch hijacker, who was 17 years old. Mr. Mannino said there were 91 passengers and six crew aboard the Boeing 737 owned by the Dutch national airline KLM. He told Reuters the youth, a Dutch boy of Italian origin, had asked for \$1 million, an air ticket to New York, and a hotel room in the American city. The minister said he was now being questioned by police. Relieved passengers entered the main airport lounge smiling and joking after their release. All were unharmed. One Italian man, who declined to be named, told reporters the youth had a clock which he pretended was a timer for a bomb. "I think he was mad," the passenger said.

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Happy Christmas

The Jordan Times will not be published on Saturday, Dec. 26, due to the Christmas holiday on Friday, Dec. 25. The next issue of the newspaper will appear on Sunday, Dec. 27. The Jordan Times wishes its readers, advertisers and patrons a Merry Christmas.

Yazez returns

AMMAN (Petra) — Lower house of Parliament Speaker Yazez returned from the U.S. on Wednesday after undergoing a successful surgery there. Mr. Yazez was received upon arrival by a number of members of the Upper and Lower houses of Parliament, tribal leaders and dignitaries.

Abat awaits

response to OIC move

AMMAN (R) — Six countries and a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) have agreed to attend a special Islamic meeting led by Morocco's King Hassan II in the Palestinian city of Jerusalem to discuss the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories. The official news agency MAP of Jordan, Mauritania, Senegal, Bangladesh and the PLO said the meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) Jerusalem Committee in Moroccan week. Diplomatic sources in Pakistan had also agreed to attend. Replies were awaited from the other committee members — Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Iran, Indonesia, Lebanon, Syria and Iran.

Baraa ends

sit to Iran

COSIA (AP) — Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa in Tehran on Wednesday after Iran issued a statement supporting for Palestinians in the occupied territories. In the statement, the two countries pressed "their complete and round support for Palestinian fighters in their struggle against the Zionist regime." Tehran also reported. Earlier, Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported that Sharaa met with President Khatami and handed him a letter from President Hafez Al Assad of Syria.

AE leader gives

lim to Palestinians

UDHABI (R) — The official news agency WAM said Wednesday UAE President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan had donated \$1 million support of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories. Sheikh Zayed's donation illustrates the UAE's sympathy and solidarity with the struggle and steadfastness of the Palestinian people, WAM said.

Syrians killed

west Beirut

IRUT (R) — Gunmen shot at two Syrian soldiers in west Beirut on Wednesday, police said, in a fresh blow to Syria's military presence in Lebanon. A spokesman said the gunmen killed the soldiers with pistols equipped with silencers and then ripped the bodies in the busy rue Al Mazraa residential neighbourhood. Syrian officials used to comment. Witnesses said Syrian troops with automatic weapons rushed to the area, sealed streets and set up checkpoints a hunt for the killers.

Yuz craft

ocks with Mir

SCOW (AP) — Three Soviet astronauts on Wednesday piloted their Soyuz TM-4 capsule to the Mir space station to work on two space comrades for a week, then replace the senior crew holding the world record for space endurance. The TASS news agency said the Soyuz TM-4 was launched under the command of commander Titov docked with the station at 1251 GMT.

Their Majesties return home after 3-day state visit to Soviet Union

King voices total satisfaction with outcome of talks with Gromyko and Gorbachev and confidence that Moscow will seek end to Gulf war

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer
with agency dispatches

THEIR MAJESTIES King Hussein and Queen Noor returned home Wednesday after a three-day state visit to the Soviet Union.

During the visit, the King held two rounds of talks with Soviet President Andrei Gromyko and met for three hours with Soviet Communist Party General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev (See story on right).

The King's talks with the Soviet leaders covered bilateral relations and international issues, with special focus on the Middle East situation and the seven-year-old Iran-Iraq war.

At a press conference before his departure, King Hussein praised the Soviet attitude towards bringing about a ceasefire in the Gulf war as very constructive.

"I believe the Soviet attitude has been very constructive so far, and will always be constructive in times ahead," he said.

The King said he had discussed bilateral relations and international issues with President Gromyko and Mr. Gorbachev.

The Arab World shared a common view with the Soviet Union over developments in the Middle East and the Gulf, King Hussein said.

The Soviet Union had agreed on the need for measures to bring about the implementation of U.N. Resolution 598 calling for a ceasefire in the Gulf war between Iran and Iraq, he said.

Asked whether this meant that the Soviet Union was now ready to press for an arms embargo against Iran in order to bring pressure on it to accept a ceasefire, the King said only that the most urgent task was to end the war.

On Tuesday, Mr. Gorbachev indicated during talks with the King that Moscow could be ready to consider an embargo, saying that the Soviet Union "is not against examining this question in the U.N. Security Council."

Previously, the Soviet Union had refused to consider an arms embargo until foreign warships are withdrawn from the Gulf and replaced by an international force.

King Hussein said the problem of foreign ships in the Gulf "would be resolved by the ending of the war."

In reply to a question, the King said efforts should be made to

remove all tension and reducing armaments in the world at large. He said that the Middle East was an important region linking the continents and around with natural resources needed by nations. Therefore, he said, this region should be made to live in peace.

The results of the talks with the Soviet leadership, the King said, will be conveyed to all Arab leaders.

In reply to another question, the King said that Israel was a nuclear power but today it had not signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, "but I cannot discuss all the details about the talks with the Soviet leaders."

The King and Queen were accompanied on the visit by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid (Continued on page 3)

Israel begins mass arrests, announces other strong-arm action over protests

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers arrested hundreds of Palestinians in a sweep through towns and villages in the West Bank and Gaza on Wednesday in a bid to break one of the most violent waves of anti-Israeli protests since the areas were occupied 20 years ago.

Defying U.S. and U.N. protests against excessive measures, the Israeli defence minister, Yitzhak Rabin, said the army was ordered to "shoot to hit" the leaders of demonstrations gone out of control and to expel or imprison ringleaders without trial.

Despite the strong-arm measures, stone-throwing and tyre-burning incidents were reported. But Palestinian and Israeli military sources reported no major clashes.

Reporting to parliament, Rabin said 21 Palestinians had been killed and 158 wounded in the clashes. He said 31 Israeli soldiers and 19 others were wounded.

The Palestine Press Service, which monitors events in the West Bank and Gaza, put the number of Arab dead at 25.

The news service said it had

reports of more than 350 arrests in the last two days, bringing the total number of detainees to 1,770. It said its figures were compiled from the families of those arrested.

Palestinians said Israeli forces swept into the villages after midnight to round up suspects at an hour when resistance is minimal.

As daylight broke, soldiers patrolled the major West Bank cities on foot and in jeeps, including in Bethlehem where Mayor Elias Freij said some pilgrims had cancelled hotel bookings to celebrate Christmas at the traditional site of Christ's birth.

Newspapers reported that Israel was building two detention centres, apparently like the tent cities which housed thousands of prisoners during Israel's war in Lebanon.

The film news agency said one detention camp was opened Wednesday near Hebron.

Under emergency regulations adapted from the British rule of Palestine, the military may hold security suspects for up to six months without trial in "administrative detention." The detention order can thereafter be extended by a court.

Top army commanders briefed

the cabinet's 10-man security committee and won an endorsement from the prime minister, Yitzhak Shamir, on their "iron-fist" measures.

But a former defence minister, Ezer Weizman, who has urged the army to disengage from trouble spots such as refugee camps to avoid bloodshed, demanded a debate on the policy. It was scheduled for Thursday, Israel Radio said.

The daily Hadashot newspaper said dozens of arrests were made overnight and that soldiers raided homes in the Gaza towns of Rafah, Khan Younis and Gaza City. An Arab reporter in Gaza said a large number of arrests were made there overnight.

Government grade schools have been closed until next Sunday, keeping home 280,000 from 800 schools in the West Bank and 70,000 in 92 schools in the Gaza Strip.

The army also closed two teachers colleges, one community college and a technical school in the West Bank for a period of one month.

Tyre-burning and stone throwing was reported in the West Bank and Gaza Strip but the level of violence tapered off for the

second straight day.

In Gaza City, witnesses said demonstrators burned two cars on Omar Al Mukhtar street, the main shopping centre. Soldiers ordered Arab motorists to clear away the debris. A commercial strike remained in force except in areas where the army forced open shops.

Al Quds, the largest Arabic-language newspaper in Jerusalem, was barred from distribution in the West Bank and Gaza, although it may be sold in Arab Jerusalem.

In Tunis, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), whose leadership is in crisis session over the violence in the occupied territories, is considering the creation of a government-in-exile, a senior PLO official said on Wednesday.

The idea, which has been proposed and rejected in the past, was discussed by PLO leader Yasser Arafat and the 15-member PLO executive committee at meetings in Tunis, a spokesman for a PLO group represented at the meetings told Reuters.

"One of the ideas being discussed is a government-in-exile which, at the right moment, would declare the establishment of an independent state in the occupied territories," Jamil Helal, spokesman for the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) said.

The PLO leadership has been in continuous session over the protests in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

It met late into the night on Tuesday and met again on Wednesday in Tunis.

The PLO has in the past refrained from naming a government-in-exile.

Mitterrand: No Gulf

withdrawal

PARIS (AP) — President Francois Mitterrand, on the second day of a two-day visit to Djibouti on Wednesday, said France's mission in the Gulf was not finished and its vessels will remain. Interviewed by French television Antenne-2 aboard the aircraft carrier Clemenceau, Mr. Mitterrand said the mission of the French fleet since it was dispatched to the Gulf region in July has been to limit the risk for oil tankers, protect French interests and provide a reserve force. He said the fleet in the Gulf, part of a larger 25-vessel unit called Task Force 623, would remain in the region. Mr. Mitterrand left Djibouti for Egypt where he will spend Christmas day.

Spirit of candour and understanding characterise Jordanian-Soviet talks

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein held talks with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev at the Kremlin on Tuesday and the Soviet news agency TASS said the talks were marked by the spirit of candour and mutual understanding on issues of Soviet-Jordanian relations and topical international problems.

Greeting the visitor, Mr. Gorbachev said that the Soviet Union valued relations with Jordan and appreciated the King's efforts to promoting cooperation between the two countries. Soviet-Jordanian relations were successfully developing in various areas.

King Hussein said that Jordan took pride in relations with the Soviet Union which were based on mutual understanding, trust and confidence in each other. He emphasised that

change of views, marked by the spirit of candour and mutual understanding, on issues of Soviet-Jordanian relations and topical international problems.

Following was the TASS report over the King's talks with Mr. Gorbachev, secretary-general of the Soviet Communist Party.

Mikhail Gorbachev met in the Kremlin today with King Hussein Ibn Talal of Jordan. They held a substantive ex-

changes taking place in the Soviet Union evoked immense interest in Arab, in non-aligned countries. Great hopes for improvement in the international situation and a better future for all of mankind were being pinned on Soviet foreign policy initiatives.

The Jordanian head of state highly praised in this connection the Soviet-American accords reached in Washington, and expressed the hope that they would have a positive effect on the settlement of regional conflicts which posed a serious potential threat to peace and security.

(Continued on page 2)

Crown Prince: U.N. approval of NIHO is a tribute to Jordan

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The adoption by the General Assembly of a Jordanian-sponsored resolution proposing the establishment of a New International Humanitarian Order (NIHO) is a matter of pride for Jordan and emphasised the leading role the Kingdom plays in international humanitarian affairs, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said Wednesday.

The Crown Prince said the resolution, which was approved by the General Assembly earlier this month, was the most substantive of a series which began some years ago and that he "did not expect the matter to assume the importance it has."

"This year's resolution is related to the final report of the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues (ICHI) which itself came into being as a result of the proposal I made," said the Crown Prince in an interview with the Jordan Times.

The Crown Prince also paid tribute to the support extended to the resolution by the Soviet Union and said: "This corresponds to the new policies of the Soviet leadership, represented by 'glasnost' (openness). I think the Soviet attitude is a vital factor in the global improvement of the human condition."

Replying to questions, the Crown Prince explained the concept of NIHO. "It is a comprehensive concept which encompasses a range of humanitarian issues resulting from the affliction of contemporary society and disaster

which are mainly man-made. The approach is action-oriented and the emphasis is on reflection and identification of alternative solutions."

Following is the transcript of the interview with the Crown Prince:

Question: The United Nations General Assembly recently adopted a resolution proposed by Jordan on a New International Humanitarian Order (NIHO). What is its significance?

Answer: The resolution introduced by Jordan which the General Assembly adopted by consensus a few days ago is the most substantive of a series which first began some years ago. When I first proposed to the General Assembly the promotion of a New Humanitarian Order, I did not expect the matter to assume the importance which it has. This year's resolution is related to the final report of the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues (ICHI) which itself came into being as a result of the proposal I made.

About 40 countries representing all regions and continents joined Jordan to co-sponsor the resolution.

Q: But what does it mean for Jordan which is a country with limited resources?

A: The humanitarian process in which Jordan is playing a leading role has nothing to do with the resources of the country. In reality, the very fact that we are a small country with limited resources lends credibility to our humanitarian efforts. The action in the General Assembly which is only one part of the overall process

gives to Jordan a humanitarian profile of which we can be proud. Alleviation of human suffering and the search for ethical solutions through the ever growing humanitarian problems should be the concern of all nations, big and small, and of all men of goodwill. Humanitarianism is a cornerstone of our national policies. His Majesty has always stressed the importance of human welfare and pleaded for politics where people matter.

Q: What does NIHO mean to you and how can it help people in a concrete way?

A: It is a comprehensive concept which encompasses a range of humanitarian issues resulting from the affliction of contemporary society and disasters which are mainly man-made. The approach is action-oriented and the emphasis is on reflection and identification of alternative solutions.

But it is not new in the sense of a recent invention. It is a process which began with the Declaration of Human Rights after World War II and whose momentum must be maintained to keep pace with new developments and new problems emerging in a fast-changing world. Usually, helping the needy is viewed in a context of charity which often amounts to throwing money at problems rather than addressing the root causes. Furthermore, the humanitarian aspects of global issues are seldom given as much attention as purely economic, political or security matters. In practical terms, helping the needy is useful but helping them to help themselves is even better because it leads to self-reliance and self-sufficiency. In that sense, NIHO

is a thought process intended to affect policies and practices in the humanitarian field. This may sound grandiose but some modest beginning has to be made by someone somewhere in order to facilitate the process.

In this age of scientific and technological progress, human wisdom must keep pace with human knowledge and human well-being must remain the focal point of all activities by states and individuals alike. This was one of the motives behind the establishment of ICHI.

Q: What were the objectives of ICHI? Have they been achieved in your view?

A: ICHI was established with a limited life-span and a modest programme of work which inevitably expanded as we progressed. Composed of eminent persons, representing all parts of the world and different cultures and trends, the commission concentrated on three areas: humanitarian norms in armed conflicts; man-made catastrophes, ranging from famine to nuclear disasters and vulnerable groups in need of special protection such as refugees, indigenous peoples, stateless persons, etc.

The commission has issued a number of reports on specific issues which have been published in many languages on all continents and whose recommendations have had an impact on

(Continued on page 3)

NRA finds new gas deposits at Al Risha

AMMAN (J.T.) — Drilling at a new well in the Risha district near the border with Iraq has resulted in the discovery of further deposits of gas, boosting the Kingdom's gas reserves and raising hopes of solving the energy problem in the future.

Natural Resources Authority (NRA) Director Kamal Jureisat said he had reason to believe that more quantities of gas and also oil would be found in the same region.

The NRA, whose teams made the discovery, will continue its search programmes to find gas and oil, Mr. Jureisat said in a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Last September, the NRA announced the discovery of a gas well at Al Risha region and, according to Mr. Jureisat, it now produces 15 million cubic metres a day, corresponding to nearly 2,500 barrels of oil.

The new gas finds are expected to cut natural oil import bill which last year topped \$600 million, equivalent to 90 per cent of the Kingdom's export earnings.

Jordan's only other hydrocarbon production is from the small Hamzeh field, also in the north,

and west of Reisah. Although the field produces a high quality, low sulfur oil, output is a sporadic 600 barrels a day.

Production from the Hamzeh field covers only one per cent of the country's energy consumption, according to Finance Minister Hanna Odeh.

Dr. Odeh, in presenting the country's 1988 draft budget to Parliament earlier this month, said a capital spending allocation of JD 13.5 million had been made for NRA operations, mainly for oil exploration.

Exploration for oil in Jordan started in the 1930s, and NRA officials believe there are good prospects for substantial finds.

A Canadian oil team will start collecting seismic data for Jordan in a joint search for oil with NRA starting next month near the Iraqi border.

Petro Canada International Assistance Corporation (PCIAIC) would operate in the Risha area as an initial step, according to Mr. Jureisat who said also that the company would spend a total of \$19 million in the course of helping Jordan find oil and provide NRA with expertise needed for oil prospecting.

Accuracy of Iraqi air raids hits hard at Iranian oil shuttle fleet

DUBAI (R) — Stretched across 550-miles of hostile waters, the fragile tanker lifeline fuelling Iran's massed armies has left a graveyard of men and metal costing Tehran much more than shippers previously thought.

Harried by Iraq's Mirage fighter-bombers, two shuttle fleets of tankers bug the Gulf eastern coast in a dual operation vital to the Iranian war effort.

At least 67 tankers and their crews took part in this oil-and-products seaborne conveyor during 1987, according to regional shipping sources. They say the oil-shuttle armada is much bigger than previously estimated.

The accuracy of Iraq's attacking aircraft ensures that not all vessels are on duty at any one time.

"The Iranians are badly hurt. There is no failure to move its oil, but the Iraqi attacks are making the process much more difficult, expensive and dangerous," one shipping source said.

"There is a tremendous cost in damage and delays in the flow of oil that goes to feed Iran's group war effort."

Hardest hit is the main oil export shuttle fleet which the sources say involved some 39 vessels over the year. At least 26 of these have been hit in the last year, with 13 still out of action and five or six total write-offs, the sources say.

The sources said six damaged ships were presently moored off the Iranian island of Qeshm, at the mouth of the Gulf, awaiting repair assessment.

The fleet, carrying crude oil for export, runs from Kharg Island, Iran's main oil terminal in the north of the Gulf, to mother storage ships in the south — at Larak Island in the Strait of Hormuz.

The dollars it earns finance Iran's war machine and the tankers are the declared prime target of Iraqi pilots.

One of the most recent victims on the shuttle was the Iranian-owned supertanker *Susangir* which is expected to be declared a total write-off after two successive Iraqi attacks two weeks ago.

Twenty-one seamen died in the raids on the Norwegian-managed tanker, the highest merchant ship death toll since the tanker war flared three years ago.

Tuesday's long-distance raid on the mother storage ships at Larak highlighted another major, though more difficult and distant, target for Iraq.

Shipping sources say Iran has nine crude oil storage mother

ships at Larak used to hold oil for customer pick-up. One of the nine, the *World Petrobras* was badly damaged on Tuesday while the 564,739-tonne *Seawise Giant*, the world's biggest ship, and the *Burmah Enterprise* were slightly damaged.

Apart from the problem of exporting crude, Iran ironically also faces difficulties importing oil products which it cannot produce itself after Iraqi strikes on refineries.

This is the job of the second shuttle fleet — carrying oil products up the dangerous stretches of the waterway known as "Exocet alley," literally to fuel the machinery of war.

At least 71 merchant seamen have lost their lives in the alley this year, though not all on Iranian shipping. Iran retaliates for attacks, striking at ships operated by or for supporters of Iraq.

Eight refined products mother storage tankers are operated by Iran of which one, the *Shining Star* was badly damaged last October. Shipping sources say it could be a total loss.

Two others, the *World Admiral* and *Legacy*, were slightly damaged in the October raid.

But despite the dangers at terminal or snaking up the Gulf, crewmen and tankers still queue up for jobs.

Seamen on the shuttle run, usually Indian, Filipino, Greek or Norwegian, receive at least treble

normal pay. Flat rates vary according to the company but British sea captains often get a £20,000 bonus each month, while Norwegian officers receive around three times their normal \$7,000 a month salary.

Filipino crewmen receive around \$5,000 a month, and Indians \$1,000, the sources said.

The Iranians use damage write-off vessels as decoys for Iraqi raids on Kharg. Two of which were knocked out this year — the Cypriot supertanker *Polycon* and the Panamanian supertanker *Fuji Orient* — have each been hit 20 times.

With Exocet missiles costing Iraq around \$1.2 million apiece, the decoys are of more value to Tehran than they would be if sold as scrap metal.

The other damaged tankers usually head for Dubai, Bahrain or the Far East for repairs. One, the Greek supertanker *Actinia*, completed repairs in Bahrain in November but was then hit twice on Dec. 1 as it sailed fully laden from Kharg.

With ships under constant attack, the National Iranian Tanker Company has been forced to keep chartering new vessels for escalating fees.

Lloyd's Shipping Intelligence said one supertanker, the 280,108-tonne Norwegian *Happy Pilot*, was chartered on Dec. 3 for \$13,000 a day.

Candour and understanding characterise Moscow talks

(Continued from page 1)

The Soviet Union, Mr. Gorbachev said, was firmly committed to facilitating the normalisation of the situation in the world and taking international relations onto the road of constructive cooperation.

During the Washington summit, the Soviet Union persistently called on the U.S. to cooperate with all sides concerned in order to defuse conflict situations in the Near and Middle East, in the Persian Gulf, in Central America and other regions. It was emphasised that the search for settlement through political means on the basis of legitimate interests of all sides was increasingly active in those regions.

A thorough exchange of views was held on all aspects of the Middle East situation and on ways to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Mr. Gorbachev and King Hussein were unanimous that a comprehensive and fair Middle East settlement could only be achieved through convening a competent international conference. It was only in this way, by concerted effort, on the basis of honest cooperation, that it was possible to bring to a common denominator the interests of Arabs, including Palestinians, of Israel and other states.

It was stressed that, under all circumstances, the Palestinian factor remained the key element to the Middle East settlement and that it could not be attained without the PLO.

The main thing now, Mr. Gorbachev said, was to set in motion the mechanism of the international conference and start practical talks. The number of supporters of this approach was increasing, he observed. But no real advancement had as yet been achieved. This was due to the lack of constructiveness in the position of the U.S. and Israel, their attempts to impose their methods of settlement.

"We say bluntly to the Americans and the Israelis that this is an unrealistic approach. This course runs counter to the interests of Arabs and Israel alike."

"The international conference," Mr. Gorbachev stressed, "must not be a cover for separate arrangements. The attempts to take the road of separate deals

have not led anywhere. And this means that all the sides, including the PLO, should participate collectively in working out a fair comprehensive settlement in the Middle East, including the Palestinian problem. This should be done both on a multilateral and bilateral basis. This work should result in decisions taking into consideration the lawful interests of all the parties involved. The quest is conducted in the right direction, but this process should be stepped up."

"Such is the Soviet Union's approach to this forum. It sensibly combines principledness, flexibility and realism, the readiness to take into consideration various viewpoints. The Soviet Union is going to continue interacting seriously and responsibly with all those who intend to make a constructive contribution to defusing the Middle East conflict."

King Hussein spoke about the results of the Arab summit conference held last November in Amman. He noted that the idea of convening an international conference was supported by the participants at the Amman summit.

Great importance of joint actions of Arab states in the interests of a fair solution to the Middle East problem was noted in this connection.

The interlocutors widely discussed the questions connected with the Iran-Iraq conflict and the situation in the Persian Gulf. The common awareness was noted that the aggravation of the situation in the region requires vigorous, energetic actions.

Mr. Gorbachev emphasised that the Soviet Union strongly favours an early end to that war, the settlement of disputed questions by political means with the observance of lawful interests of both Iraq and Iran. It implements this line consistently in contacts with all the sides.

The Soviet and Jordanian leaders noted that the U.N. Security Council's Resolution 598 remains the real basis for taking effective steps towards peace.

In connection with the lack of real progress in the process of negotiations, King Hussein, referring to the decision of the Amman summit, declared in favour of the Security Council's adopting a resolution on the

embargo on arms deliveries to Iran as the side that refuses to comply with the Security Council's decisions.

Mr. Gorbachev said that the Soviet Union, while continuing to declare for the implementation of Resolution 598, is not against considering this question at the United Nations Security Council. But there are doubts if those who declare for embargo the loudest, and who, by the way, were caught at secretly supplying arms to Iran will be observing the embargo.

"We deem it necessary to use every means for ending the war, including those envisaged by the United Nations Charter," Mr. Gorbachev went on. "A great deal will depend in this on the warring sides themselves, on their readiness to carry the matters to genuine settlement on the basis of reasonable compromise."

"The Soviet Union will be promoting this process in every way, will be vigorously supporting collective efforts giving an impetus to the continuation of the talks. Clear-cut and concrete directives were given to the Soviet representative at the United Nations to this effect."

"The question of normalising the situation in the Persian Gulf must be decided alongside this."

The situation in the Gulf continues worsening, and threatens to develop into a serious international crisis. The situation in the Gulf zone should be relaxed and the sooner the better. The Soviet Union holds that the forming of the United Nations naval force will make it possible to improve the political climate, to concentrate the attention on the task of an early end to the Iran-Iraq war. The Soviet proposals to this effect are known. But we are also open to a serious discussion of any other constructive ideas. We call on our partners in the West to ponder jointly and interact in this question."

Mr. Gorbachev and the King expressed mutual interest in the continuation of the Soviet-Jordanian political dialogue and confirmed the striving for a further widening and deepening of relations between the two countries in various areas.

King Hussein invited the

general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee to make an official visit to Jordan. The invitation was gratefully accepted.

Rifai meets Ryzhkov

The Prime Minister, Mr. Zaid Rifai, held talks on Tuesday with Nikolai Ryzhkov, member of the politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers.

In discussing international problems, the sides expressed confidence that practical steps on arms control and disarmament were a necessary condition for preserving peace and for the successful solution of acute economic and social problems facing mankind.

It was observed in this connection that the conclusion of the Soviet-American treaty on the elimination of their medium- and shorter-range missiles was an historic step along the road towards ending the nuclear arms race and towards disarmament.

Mr. Rifai highly assessed the Soviet peace initiatives directed at averting nuclear catastrophe and strengthening peace and international security.

In considering bilateral relations, the sides expressed satisfaction with their overall state and noted reciprocal interest in the further development of trade and economic cooperation, especially by way of using new forms of economic ties.

Mr. Ryzhkov described profound changes currently under way in the Soviet Union in all spheres of life or society — political, social, economic and spiritual, and the radical reform of economic management.

In discussing the situation in the Middle East, the heads of the two governments expressed the conviction that the search for a fair comprehensive Middle East settlement, including that of the Palestinian problem, should be conducted within the framework of a competent international conference under the U.N. auspices with the participation of all sides directly concerned and permanent members of the U.N. Security Council.

The sides were unanimous about the need for the earliest cessation of the Iran-Iraq war by peaceful, political means. This effort should be facilitated by all countries which were sincerely striving towards lasting peace in the region.

The conversation was constructive in character and passed in an atmosphere of mutual understanding.

Cuba denies official contacts with Israel

HAVANA (R) — The Cuban government has denied reports that it held official talks with representatives of Israel to discuss renewing diplomatic relations between the two nations.

The official Cuban News Agency Prensa Latina quoted a Foreign Ministry statement as saying "meetings between Cuban leaders and representatives of the International Jewish Community took place for political and economic

reasons of another nature, owing to the position of these persons as businessmen and political figures in their respective nations."

It added there had not been official contacts between Cuban and Israeli diplomatic representatives.

The Foreign Ministry statement did not name the representatives of the International Jewish Community nor did it give further details on the meetings.

Chirac government denies new report on Iran arms sales

PARIS (R) — The French government has denied allegations in a French newspaper that secret arms sales to Iran have continued throughout Prime Minister Jacques Chirac's 21 months in office.

The prestigious French daily *Le Monde* said an investigation in Portugal by its reporters indicated that supplies of weapons and explosives destined for that country in 1986 and 1987 were channelled instead to Tehran, despite government pledges to the contrary.

Two French companies already accused of arms trafficking, Luchaire SA and the state-owned National Powder and Explosives Company (SNPE), supplied Iran by using false end-user certificates giving Portugal as the destination of the munitions, the newspaper said.

But a Defence Ministry spokesman, speaking on behalf of the Budget Ministry, said: "the material mentioned was never shipped. Therefore it could not have been re-routed."

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- 15:55 Arabic Series
- 16:00 World News Reports
- 16:05 Programme Review
- 16:10 News in Arabic
- 16:15 Local varieties programme
- 16:20 Arabic film
- 16:25 News summary in Arabic
- 16:30 Arabic film

PROGRAMME TWO

- 17:30 Les Reves de Jeannot (Cartoon)
- 17:35 Rue Carrot
- 17:40 French Documentary
- 17:45 News in French
- 17:50 Varieties
- 17:55 News in Hebrew
- 18:00 Varieties
- 18:05 News in Arabic
- 18:10 TV Censored Bloopers
- 18:15 Alfred Hitchcock
- 18:20 News in English
- 18:25 Feature film: "Christmas Eve"
- 18:30 Varieties
- 18:35 Christmas midnight mass from Vatican

RADIO JORDAN
835 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM & partly on 95.60 KHz. SW
Tel: 77411-19

PROGRAMME ONE

- 07:00 Light Music
- 07:30 Newsdesk
- 08:00 Morning Show
- 08:30 News Summary
- 08:45 Morning Show Cont'd.
- 09:00 Country Music
- 09:15 Hissville: The story of Motown
- 09:30 News Summary
- 09:45 News in Arabic
- 10:00 News Summary
- 10:15 Pop Session
- 10:30 News Bulletin
- 10:45 Instruments
- 11:00 Discovering Music
- 11:15 Concert Hour
- 11:30 News Summary
- 11:45 Instruments
- 12:00 Old Favourites
- 12:15 Pop Session
- 12:30 News Summary
- 12:45 Special Feature
- 13:00 Music
- 13:15 Newsdesk

VOICE OF AMERICA
MW 1200 & SW 720, 95.6, 117.40, 102.5 and 152.10 KHz

06:00 News 06:10 Newsline 06:30 VOA Morning 07:00 News 07:10 Newsline 07:30 VOA Morning 08:00 News 08:10 Newsline 08:30 VOA Morning 08:45 News 09:00 Newsline 09:10 Newsline 09:30 VOA Morning 09:45 News 10:00 Newsline 10:10 Newsline 10:30 VOA Morning 10:45 News 11:00 Newsline 11:10 Newsline 11:30 VOA Morning 11:45 News 12:00 Newsline 12:10 Newsline 12:30 VOA Morning 12:45 News 13:00 Newsline 13:10 Newsline 13:30 VOA Morning 13:45 News 14:00 Newsline 14:10 Newsline 14:30 VOA Morning 14:45 News 15:00 Newsline 15:10 Newsline 15:30 VOA Morning 15:45 News 16:00 Newsline 16:10 Newsline 16:30 VOA Morning 16:45 News 17:00 Newsline 17:10 Newsline 17:30 VOA Morning 17:45 News 18:00 Newsline 18:10 Newsline 18:30 VOA Morning 18:45 News 19:00 Newsline 19:10 Newsline 19:30 VOA Morning 19:45 News 20:00 Newsline 20:10 Newsline 20:30 VOA Morning 20:45 News 21:00 Newsline 21:10 Newsline 21:30 VOA Morning 21:45 News 22:00 Newsline 22:10 Newsline 22:30 VOA Morning 22:45 News 23:00 Newsline 23:10 Newsline 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An occasion of sorrow and sadness

CHRISTMAS in Bethlehem and the rest of the Holy Land this year will go down in contemporary history as among the saddest and solemnest ever due to the Palestinian blood that was spilled by Israeli bullets in the last two weeks. It was no surprise that celebrations in Bethlehem, the birthplace of Jesus Christ, and the rest of the occupied territories will be trimmed this year to the bare minimum and will not exceed strict religious observance of the normally happy occasion of the birth of Christianity. With the Christian officialdom's decision to mark this year's occasion of Christmas with reserved joy in the occupied territories, the churches of Jordan have also decided to curtail their celebration to the minimum as an expression of their solidarity with their brethren fighting and struggling against Israel's harsh and oppressive measures in the occupied territories.

In all, the mounting death toll among the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip at the hands of the Israeli forces have transformed an otherwise joyous and inspirational occasion into a mourning event, which the whole world will mark with much sorrow and sadness. To make things even worse in the Holy Land, the Israeli minister of defence, Yitzhak Rabin, has returned from his official visit to Washington ever more defiant of the occasion of Christmas with a promise to apply an even more iron-fist policy against the inhabitants of the Holy Land. This is the Christmas gift that Israel is offering to the Christians of the world and to the very people affected by the trigger-happy Israeli forces. This is the message of "despair" and "hostility" that Israel is beaming out to the world at large on the very occasion of Christmas, the religious and joyous occasion which brought much hope and inspiration to mankind. To add insult to injury, Rabin and like-minded Israeli officials, which are behind the measures that marred and smeared the Christmas season of 1987, had the audacity to suggest to the inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza Strip that there were "peaceful ways" to get their "rights." Show us Rabin one case in your state's history where the people of Palestine had come anywhere near earning their national rights by peaceful ways. Tell us Rabin and company how Israel had wrested Palestinian territory from its rightful citizens to establish itself. Was it by peaceful means that Israel came into being or rather on ashes of the national rights of its indigenous people? After 20 years of occupation is there truly a peaceful way out of Israeli occupation and oppression? We wonder. But if there is, then it would be Israel which has to show the way. It is the recalcitrant party that refuses to budge an inch for peace.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Complementary drives

JORDANIAN moves on the one hand and diplomatic moves by Arab governments on the other clearly reflect a determination on the part of the Arab Nation to follow up on the positive outcome achieved at the Arab summit meeting in Amman last month. King Hussein's visit to the Soviet Union assumes a special importance since it represents a pan-Arab drive to present the Arab views to the superpower and explain the Amman summit's successful outcome. Likewise, Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia who visited Baghdad, Damascus and Cairo, carried out a similar mission within the Arab World, acting in the spirit of the Amman summit and trying to enhance its resolutions which call for pan-Arab solidarity in the face of hostile alliance, specially in the Palestine and Gulf fronts. Prince Hassan held talks with Prince Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz on current Arab affairs and the results of the Amman summit. These talks come on the eve of meetings in Riyadh by the Gulf Cooperation Council members who will discuss collective defence and security matters. The meeting will find a total backing from Arab countries for measures aimed at ensuring the security of the Arab states. The coming meeting is bound to enhance the resolutions passed by the Amman summit on the Iran-Iraq war and the Arab-Israeli conflict. There is no alternative to solidarity among Arab countries at a time when the common enemies continue their drive to occupy Arab land, and there is no substitute to pan-Arab action in the face of injustice and repression.

Al Dustour: What is expected of Soviets

ISSUES of common interest to Jordan and the Soviet Union were on top of the subjects discussed by King Hussein and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev at a three-hour meeting at the Kremlin Tuesday. These questions covered regional problems and issues of global importance. King Hussein voiced his appreciation to Mr. Gorbachev for his concluding an agreement with the U.S. on removing nuclear weapons from Europe and said the world was in need of another agreement to come through an international conference that would bring about peace and security to the Middle East, and pave the way for an end to the fighting in the Gulf in accordance with Security Council resolutions. King Hussein dwelt in length on these two issues in his address to a banquet held in his honour at the Kremlin on the first day of his visit. He said the Arab World in general looks to the Soviet Union to take serious steps for supporting the Arab Nation's drive towards peace and security. In referring to the bloody events and the upsurge of Arab resistance in the occupied Arab territories, King Hussein pointed to Israel's intransigent position and said that the events come as a natural reaction to Israel's arbitrary actions and repressive measures against the Palestinian people. In reference to the Gulf conflict, the King pointed to the dangers inherent in Iran's continued rejection of peace bids and refusal to implement Security Council Resolution 598. The King's speech at the banquet and the subsequent talks held with Mr. Gorbachev, emphasise the importance of the monarch's visit to Moscow and the role the Arab Nation expects from their friend and superpower to play in contributing towards a genuine and just peace.

Soviet president's speech at banquet in honour of His Majesty the King

Security of Mideast is closely linked to that of the Soviet Union

• Moscow will exert continuous constructive efforts for Mideast peace conference • Soviets remain committed to Resolution 598

Following is an unofficial translation of Soviet President Andrei Gromyko's address at a banquet he hosted in honour of His Majesty King Hussein on Monday, the first day of His Majesty's current visit to the Soviet Union.

Your Majesty,
Our respected Jordanian guests,
Comrades,

WE are deeply pleased to welcome our most esteemed guest King Hussein bin Talal of Jordan on an official visit to the Soviet Union. We are also glad to see here at the Kremlin Her Majesty Queen Noor.

Strong and solid relations have developed between our two countries since a long time. These relations have been based on principles of mutual respect and non-interference in each other's internal affairs. In the view of the Soviets, Jordan is an integral part of the Arab World, the land of great and ancient traditions and the cradle of genuine civilisations. The unique and rare caves, palaces and temples which are sculptured in the rocks of the mountains of Petra, the capital of one of the greatest and most ancient states, are truly considered real miracles of man's magnificent architectural creations.

REALLY it is not useless to describe Jordan as "open-air museum" but the central debate in our contemporary times is not focused on the necessity of preserving civilisations' ruins but rather on the fact that the nations are demanding with their loudest voice the human life itself on earth should be safeguarded prior to anything else.

THE era we are living in is extraordinary. Just recently, the visit of the secretary-general of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party, Mikhail Gorbachev, to Washington to sign the Soviet-American INF treaty, and the international reactions to the treaty have once again proved that realising the major objective of humanity of deterring the danger of nuclear war has become nearer than ever. And even those who are still resisting the elimination of nuclear weapons can no longer claim that this goal is a mirage or an attainable dream.

A very significant visit

By Yuri Tionkov

Novosti

THERE IS no doubt that His Majesty King Hussein's visit to Moscow is an important development in the international arena. It follows the achievement of a great step towards deterring the danger of a nuclear catastrophe. This step was the signing in Washington of the Soviet-American agreement to eliminate intermediate-range nuclear missiles.

King Hussein, on behalf of the Jordanian government and people, has personally congratulated the Soviet leadership on this major step which has paved the way for the elimination of a nuclear nightmare.

The significance of the King's visit stems from the fact that the main focus of his talks with the Soviet leadership is on the removal of tension and the danger of war from the Middle East and the Gulf, a region whose security affects the security of the world as a whole.

President Andrei Gromyko has stressed the importance that the Soviet leadership attaches to this visit. In his speech at the Kremlin on Monday, President Gromyko underlined the importance of a decisive and a daring turn towards a collective search for a just and honourable peace in the Middle East. He reiterated that the Soviet Union was not apathetic towards the fate of the people of the Middle East, which is close to the USSR and, consequently, the prevailing military and political tension in the region cannot but affect the Soviet Union and its allies.

The attention is now focused on efforts to convene an international peace conference on the Middle East. Even those who until recently were not willing to listen to the idea are now reconsidering the proposal and possibility of convening the conference.

In a reference to the conference's task to provide solutions addressing all aspects of the Arab-Israeli conflict, including

IT has become clear to the whole world that the realisation of this objective is solely contingent on the scope of the current efforts in that direction.

IT has become clear that the continuation of the arms race is a step towards a bottomless pit and, if we use the metaphoric expressions used in your country's friends, then we shall say that the arms race is like a caravan in the desert heading straight to the lifeless Dead Sea where it is impossible for any living soul to survive.

THE Soviet-American INF treaty represents the first step in the reverse direction i.e. towards avoiding the danger of the catastrophe and safeguarding of life on earth.

WE shall not be tired to reiterate that our Leninist policy is a policy of peace and that the U.S.S.R., together with its allies and the other countries that call for development of ties among nations, is constructing a peace landmark.

BUT this landmark cannot be strongly built if the construction was not based on solid security base. Or else this security would be unreliable and fragile.

THIS realisation has become one of the crystal-clear fundamentals of the nuclear age. Therefore I reiterated, during the 27th congress of the Soviet Communist Party, the need to reactivate collective efforts to extinguish the flames of conflict in the regions of tension and instability in the world.

THIS point, perhaps, directly concerns the Middle East in the first place, for the unresolved conflict in this area has been shedding blood for the last four decades. Moreover, year after year, new causes of conflict are accumulating and new links of complexities are added to the chain. The region has witnessed an unprecedented arms race in terms of its implications and scopes and in which foreign powers are involved in a wider scale.

THESE forces are trying to exploit the situation for their own

narrow interests and benefits. As the final result, we find a chronic political and military instability, which had cost meaningless human losses, destruction of villages and towns and of the concerned economies.

ALL of this creates an atmosphere of danger and lack of confidence in the future on the part of the people of the region.

THE Middle East conflict should be solved and this is the will of this era. The violation of the legitimate rights of nations and the international law is illogical, and the nations will never accept the violations of their rights.

THIS fact is being proved by the ongoing courageous resistance of the Palestinian people are putting up against the Israeli occupiers and which has also shown the futility of the "iron fist" policy adopted by Israel. The (Palestinian resistance) has also proved the need for a decisive and daring turn towards a collective search for a just and honourable peace.

THE Soviet Union is far from being apathetic towards the fate of the nations in the Middle East. This region is close in proximity to our country and therefore the escalating political and military tension cannot but affect us and the security of our allies. We have always had historical, political, economic and cultural interests and concerns in the region.

WE are also aware that other countries have similar interests and concerns in the region. But that should never mean that an external force can claim the right to decide the future and fate of the area or to impose by force the basis of this future upon the people of the region.

THE idea of convening an international peace conference on the Middle East is currently enjoying the world attention. It is a positive development that this idea is gaining ground and weight. Even

those who until recently were not ready even to listen about this conference are now ready to consider the suggestion and to discuss the possibility of realising it. But there are still some circles which try to impose artificial preconditions and reservations against the convening of the conference. These circles aim at exploiting the wide approval of the convening of the conference to advance their own special interests.

THERE are certain circles in both the U.S. and Israel which are trying again to divert the peace process in the Middle East to the unproved path of unilateral deals which are far from being capable of achieving a durable peace in the region.

THE main task of the conference will be to achieve real peace in the region. The conference should also provide solutions which address all the aspects of the Arab-Israeli conflict, including an adequate solution to the Palestinian problem.

THE Soviet position towards the Palestinian cause is well-known; the conference should be based on mutual respect of each country's independence and the right of each people to choose its own independent way of development in an atmosphere of security.

THE immediate task is to pave the way towards a complete international conference. The Soviet Union is determined to take constructive steps towards the realisation of this idea in the Security Council as well as on the level of continuous Soviet contacts with all the concerned parties, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel.

FOR the eighth consecutive year the flames of the Iran-Iraq war continue to erupt and inflict a longer list of casualties, in addition to other destruction. Only

through political means could this tension and the accumulation of mutual hostility be defused. Wisdom and logic should prevail and dominate each move that should employ the mechanism provided by the United Nations.

THE Soviet Union's principle remains unchanged. The Soviet Union supports an end to the Iran-Iraq war. Security Council Resolution 598 remains the sound and balanced basis for a just settlement.

HOWEVER, the path towards achieving peace is strewn with difficulties. Iraq's readiness to accept peace is not enough on its own to achieve the aspired peace. It is the right of the international community to expect practical steps towards peace by Iran. It will be preferable that the two sides will sit on the same negotiating table. The wise Oriental proverb says: "A good neighbourhood stems from kind intentions." If such a situation prevails then there will be no need for enforcing other means contained in the U.N. Charter.

The massing up of the fleets of the U.S. and its allies, the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) in the Arab Gulf is further complicating the search for a settlement. This conclusion is substantiated by facts about the rising tension in the Gulf.

THE Soviet Union has called for the withdrawal of all foreign fleets from the region. The Soviet Union is holding to this position.

BUT if the issue of protecting freedom of navigation is raised then this mission could be entrusted to a special U.N. naval task force which could be formed for that purpose. The formation of this force could be in harmony with the interests of all countries concerned.

IN the context of reviewing the explosive Middle East problems the issue of Arab solidarity should be tackled. Experience

shows that the voice of the Arabs shall be louder and shall have more weight if there were less gaps in the Arab ranks. There was a detailed discussion on this subject during the Arab summit, held in the Jordanian capital recently. It was a good step.

THE Soviet people have genuine and friendly emotions towards the Jordanian people. We gladly note that 25 years have passed since the establishment of Soviet-Jordanian diplomatic relations. During this period a wide range of agreements were signed in the areas of economic, technological, cultural and educational cooperation. All of the accords are being implemented and there is a continuous exchange of views between the two sides on different issues pertaining to the situation in the Middle East. The current Jordanian-Soviet talks in Moscow constitute a step in the same direction.

YOU are going to meet tomorrow with the secretary-general of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party, Mikhail Gorbachev. We are confident that these talks will provide a significant incentive for furthering Soviet-Jordanian cooperation and will bring peace closer which has been long awaited by the nations of the Middle East.

OUR determined and sincere search for peace is closely linked with the great task that lies ahead of us to bring about a reconstruction of all aspects of our life. The elimination of the phenomena of dogmatism and the conservative tendencies will leave the door wide open for the Soviet people to develop socialism and democracy.

WE express, on behalf of the Soviet people, our most kind feelings towards our dear guests.

I WOULD like to conclude my speech with a toast in honour of the head of the Jordanian state and his wife and for the health of all the Jordanian guests.

Full text of Security Council resolution on Israeli actions in occupied territories

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Following is the text of a resolution criticising Israeli actions in the occupied territories that was adopted on Tuesday by the Security Council by 14 votes in favour and none against, with the United States abstaining.

The draft was sponsored by the non-aligned members of the 15-nation council — Argentina, Congo, Ghana, the United Arab Emirates and Zambia.

The Security Council,

HAVING considered the letter dated 11 December 1987 from the permanent representative of Democratic Yemen to the United Nations, in his capacity as chairman of the Arab group for the month of December,

BEARING in mind the inalienable rights of all peoples recognised by the Charter of the United Nations and proclaimed by universal declaration of human

rights, RECALLING its relevant resolutions on the situation in the Palestinian and other Arab territories, occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem, and including its resolutions 446 (1979), 465 (1980), 497 (1981), and 592 (1986).

RECALLING also the Geneva Convention relative to the protection of civilian persons in time of war, of 12 August 1949, GRAVELY concerned and alarmed by the deteriorating situation in the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem,

TAKING into account the need to consider measures for the impartial protection of the Palestinian civilian population under Israeli occupation,

CONSIDERING that the current policies and practices of Israel, the occupying power, in the occupied territories are bound to have

grave consequences for the endeavours to achieve comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

1. Strongly deplores these policies and practices of Israel, the occupying power, which violate the human rights of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, and in particular the opening of fire by the Israeli army, resulting in the killing and wounding of defenceless Palestinian civilians.

2. Reaffirms that the Geneva Convention relative to the protection of civilian persons in time of war, of 12 August 1949, is applicable to the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem.

3. Calls once again upon Israel, the occupying power, to abide immediately and scrupulously by the Geneva Convention relative to the protection of civilian persons in time of war, of 12 August

1949, and to desist forthwith from its policies and practices that are in violation of the provisions of the convention.

4. Calls furthermore for the exercise of maximum restraint to contribute towards the establishment of peace.

5. Stresses the urgent need to reach a just, durable and peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

6. Requests the secretary general to examine the present situation in the occupied territories by all means available to him, and to submit a report no later than 20 January 1988 containing his recommendations on ways and means for ensuring the safety and protection of the Palestinian civilians under Israeli occupation.

7. Decides to keep the situation in the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem, under review.

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Justice and charity breed goodwill

By Reverend Mousa Adeli



"PEACE on earth to men of goodwill" is the message of Christmas. This has been so since the first Christmas night about two thousand years ago. This will continue to be the constant good news for all the years to come. There is a perennial need for peace for all individuals, all societies, all nations, for development, progress and well-being of all mankind, irrespective of cast, creed and colour.

Peace is what makes one's life enduringly bearable; peace is what gives harmony and order in society; peace is what strengthens relations among nations and makes them cooperate in diverse fields of socio-economic-political enterprises. Peace is the basic requirement for sustained development and progress in every

sphere of personal life, in every aspect of national life, and in every field of international approach to global problems.

It is a universal desire of every human being to possess peace. But it doesn't come easily. It takes tremendous effort to attain peace and then guard it without losing it. Peace can be possessed only by "men of goodwill". We can further paraphrase it and say that peace is assured to only "nations of goodwill." Global peace will be the cumulative result of the goodwill of all nations on earth. In other words, whether sought by an individual, or a society, or a nation of diverse people, or a world of diverse nations, peace is based on the bedrock of goodwill.

Individuals need first to achieve peace before a society can enjoy peace. The individuals' goodwill towards one another makes it possible for all the members of the society to live in harmony and order; this makes possible the observance of the laws of society which are necessary for the common good of all. This also makes everyone to recognise the rights of everybody

else and respect them.

Education, religious discipline etc. would certainly help people to cultivate goodwill towards one another. Lack of goodwill tends to make people behave irrationally towards one another in a society. Lack of it tends to make one selfish and forgetful of others' rights; lack of it tends to breed envy, rancour, and evil designs, potentially disruptive to the well-being of the whole society. In some places, peace is disturbed by a few who take the laws into their own hands. They neither believe in the goodwill of others nor peace with others, but indulge themselves in evil pursuits. Stringent laws, therefore are made to restrict their destructive activities. Fortunately there are few anarchists. They are a liability all the same in a society where peace is the anchor for human development. But peace is the monopoly of the men of goodwill on earth.

Peace among nations is also dependent on the goodwill they show one another. Lack of it tends nations to suspect the good intentions of one another. Tensions, quarrels, conflicts and wars

ensue based on issues they consider they cannot comprehend in the behaviour of one towards another. It is goodwill that should make them avoid the path of confrontation and seek peaceful solutions to outstanding problems on common principles. Differences of views are inevitable among nations but that does not mean that they should lead to undermining the goodwill existing between them. On the contrary, differences should help reinforce it, just as we see a marvellous unity in the diversity of nature. In this regard, it was heartening to witness the Arab leaders' summit in Amman last month. A fund of goodwill brought them all under a summit umbrella that gave a boost to the peace process in the Middle East. They have tangibly expressed their goodwill to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict through an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations. The other party in the conflict, Israel, should reciprocate it with an adequate show of goodwill. Israel will have peace for all the time to come provided Israel demonstrates goodwill.

Goodwill on both sides will eventually lead to the establishment of peace in the Middle East.

How would we show goodwill and reap its fruit of peace. First of all we must realise that in the family of humans we are all equals, having equal rights. Justice demands that no-one should try to infringe upon the legitimate rights of others. What is nowadays very much lacking is the readiness to accord respect to the rights of others. Even positively in some places those rights are being trampled under foot. The right to live and organise a decent life, the right to have the freedom of speech, the right to practise one's religion, the right to basic amenities of life etc. are not always enjoyed by all everywhere. Particularly without religious liberty one can hardly expect harmony and peace among people of diverse persuasions and beliefs. It is very significant to mention that the meeting between Muslims and Christians in Amman during the Third Muslim-Christian Dialogue last month ensured and strengthened the goodwill of one community to the other.

Secondly, we see socio-economic disparities in peoples' life. Some are rich; others are poor; still others are beggars and dispossessed. There are so many suffering and dying of hunger. Yet there are those lavishly living on delicacies and would not even part with the crumbs that fall from their tables to feed a hungry person. There is need to cultivate a greater awareness among people to support the poor and needy and even to share their means with them.

Pope John Paul said to the general assembly of Caritas Internationalis in May: "To build peace we must build communities of justice and charity". In fact this was the theme of the assembly which the Pope wholeheartedly commended. It is true nobody can remain insensitive to the urgent need for peace everywhere. But justice and charity are the *sine qua non* for displaying our goodwill which ultimately will bloom into universal and authentic peace for which everyone is bankinging for. Christmas is a time to reassess our share in realising that supreme and noble goal.

Randa Habib's Corner

Quality control

IN LIGHT of the government policy of encouraging local industry we have witnessed the appearance of tens of small enterprises in Jordan. From various artificial juices, to potato chips, candies, soaps, tissues, and other commodities, the market is full of Jordanian-made goods.

However, the quality is not always what one expects. Is it because of too much local competition that so many factories are introducing gifts and offering low prices as incentives to market their goods. This competition in a relatively small market, is giving a hard time to the small enterprises.

To survive market competition and make profit, most industrial concerns cut down the prices of their products, but only at the expense of quality.

To combat this a committee for consumer quality control should be established. Such a body would closely monitor all the goods in the market and make sure that they are safe for consumers and meet the required standards. Some smaller enterprises might get in difficulty, as they might not be able to cope with a higher standard and with less profit. In that case those small enterprises should merge and become one corporation with a joint capital; stronger in the market and able to face bigger competitors.

The experience of the merger of small insurance companies, for example, proved to be a success. The result may be profitable for both the entrepreneurs and the consumers.

Kuwaiti film director stays with Arab roots

By Philip Shehadi
Reuter

KUWAIT — Renowned Kuwaiti film director Khaled Siddik is sometimes asked why he has not made a film about the modern Gulf region he lives in, with its steel and glass towers, freeways and oil wells.

"I've always sought out the real roots of the Arabs in their traditional environments, whether Kuwait, Sudan or the silk route days," he says, referring to his three feature films.

Siddik, 42, has set poignant love stories in the oases of Sudan and in the pearling days before Kuwait's oil boom.

In his latest movie, he turns the clock back 600 years to the height of Arab empire when European adventurers, Arab traders and Indian beauties mingled on Marco Polo's silk route to China.

Siddik is a rarity in the Gulf Arab states, where a handful of film makers produce mostly state-sponsored documentaries and TV serials.

He has overcome parental rebuke, religious opposition and financial risk to achieve recognition at home and abroad as a leading Arab writer, director and producer of full-length feature films.

Siddik recalled that when his first film, *Bas ya Bahy* (The Cruel Sea), came out in 1972, some Kuwaiti parliamentarians called for the negatives to be burned.

The award-winning film is now regarded as a classic, the tragic story of a young Kuwaiti who dies

on a pearling trip trying to earn the bride price for the girl he loves.

Siddik's passion for the screen started early while he was in school in India, the Third World's leading film maker.

When he returned to Kuwait aged 16, his religious father deemed film-making un-Islamic and insisted he go into the family business.

"I told him if I joined the family firm it would go bust in a fortnight," Siddik remembers. "But my father resisted (Siddik's film-making) until his last moments."

He learned the rudiments of cinematic technique in the early days of Kuwaiti television and studied in Britain, Italy and the United States.

"The Cruel Sea" is about the struggle of people with nature before the discovery of oil," Siddik says. "I thought it was important for the west and a lot of Arab countries to know what Kuwait was like before oil."

Kuwait's mud butts and traditional wedding dances and the long months at sea vanished 50 years ago, but are vividly shown in Siddik's film.

The success of "The Cruel Sea", which won nine international awards, encouraged Siddik in 1975 to set up his own studio in Kuwait, the first private studio in the Gulf.

His next film was adapted from Sudanese writer Al Tayeb Saleh's novel, *Urs Az-Zain* (The Wedding of Zaim).

And the child is born a million times

By Najwa Najjar

IT ALL began in a little town called Nazareth when three boys heard about the miraculous birth of a child. Rumour had it that the child was born under strange circumstances. He had been in the womb for anywhere between ten and 20 years. Until the mother gave birth, she had thought that the child was additional weight she had put on over the years. The mother did not see her child after he was born, but her dying words were that the "king of kings" had taken birth.

All this talk greatly disturbed King David who had called himself the "king of kings". A scrawny little man who lived in a huge plastic huddle furnished with all the luxuries of the West, the king had built a reputation larger than himself.

He assigned his advisors to bring him hourly updates on the child. But the news on the child's sensational actions infuriated King David. The proverbial straw that really broke the camel's back came when one of his advisors said the child appeared to be truly "the king of kings."

The veins in King David's neck swelled and his eyeballs nearly fell of their socket. Before the advisors could scamper out of the room, King David bellowed that this child must be brought to him, dead or alive, by the end of the day.

The day was Christmas eve, the same day the three boys from Nazareth decided to find out how true the story of the child was. Christmas vacation gave them ten days of school holidays, so they had enough time to go to Jabiliya camp, where the child was last reported seen.

The three — Fadi, Rajai and Nasser — set out through the streets of Nazareth to buy the child presents before catching the Nazareth-Tel Aviv-Gaza bus line.

They entered a small shop. Christmas carols filled the air. The boys were warmly greeted by a small woman garbed in black and a colourful headscarf.

Umm Saed, who knew the boys for all their 14 years, listened patiently as Fadi, Rajai and Nasser told her of their plans to visit the new child in Gaza. They then asked her advice on what presents to take, as they had great respect for her and her wisdom.

Umm Saed calmly glanced over her shoulder and then whispered in low bused tones: "A slingshot, a bag of onions and matches."

Though surprised at her suggestion, the boys bought the presents, bade her goodbye and headed towards the bus station.

The Nazareth-Tel Aviv bus promptly left at noon. A quick glance told the boys that there were only a few Arabs on board. However, no one spoke in Arabic or rather no Arab spoke at all. The hour-and-a-half trip was dominated by talk in Hebrew on the new born child and King David's plan to eliminate him.

The child was variously described as a "monster", "a walking terror", and "a Soviet conspiracy." Several suggestions were aired by men, women and children to "kill all the filthy children of Gaza," or "throw them into the sea or across the River Jordan." The boys burst with anger and with the applause and cheer that followed the half-hourly news bulletins they became more and more enraged but at the same time they were also



happy to hear the child was continuing his exploits.

The news said: "Unrest has been reported in Balata camp near Nablus. Ten youngsters armed with stones have been shot by soldiers. The soldiers were unable to locate the child in Nablus."

Everytime the child was reported in different places — Jala-zone camp, Khan Younis, Rafah, Hebron, Ramallah, Askar, Qalqiliya, Jerusalem — but the boys somehow had a feeling they could meet the child when they reached Gaza.

A few kilometres from Tel Aviv the bus passed hundreds of people carrying coffins and chanting slogans protesting the deaths of their brethren.

A sad smile replaced the sullen look in the boys' eyes. It stayed until they reached Tel Aviv and boarded the Tel Aviv-Gaza bus, which was full of Arabs. Settling comfortably into their seats, the boys shot ears up as they heard the child mentioned again.

"They say the child is beautiful with huge dovish eyes," said an

elderly woman.

"I've heard that the child is not only beautiful, but also intelligent... he has a photographic memory and understands concepts without much explanation," added another.

"There's talk that no bullet can kill him," was the excited comment of a youth.

"The minute they have him cornered, he flies to another place," added his companion.

"He even gives the poor their daily bread," shouted a voice from the front rows.

"I wonder if he was born in Jabiliya camp. There are reports that the child was seen at Deir Al Balah and Dheisheh camps, in Jerusalem and even in the Galilee," said a breathless woman who was just in time to catch the bus.

"I bet he's as dark as night," asserted an old bedouin.

"He may be blond," countered another voice.

At the end of the one-hour trip, the three boys got off at the Jabiliya stop. Bidding the passengers farewell and receiving their

blessings in return, they set off towards the camp. As they neared the rundown dwellings with glassless windows and rotting doors, they stood aside in silence to make way for a funeral procession. Not a sound could be heard from the young and old that walked past. Young children looked at the boys with their adult eyes while the young men carrying bodies wrapped in red, green, white and black cloth on their shoulders stared right through them with tears glistening in their eyes.

The three boys decided to follow the procession. Soon they found themselves in front of Shifa Hospital. But they were taken back to see King David himself, escorted by Goliath carrying a long wooden club and a rifle.

The boys instinctively knew what to do. Joining the protesters they formed a human barricade. As Goliath drew closer, Fadi took the slingshot from his backpack and a rock from the ground. When Goliath threw a tear-gas grenade, Rajai passed heads of onions around.

Nasser lit firebombs and tyres with the matches.

In the midst of the columns of black smoke and tear-gas, a kneeling Goliath and a screaming King David who had somehow lost his crown, Fadi, Rajai, and Nasser knew that a new child was indeed born, and they had just seen him.

Merry Christmas everyone.

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NBA BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

Houston downs Atlanta

'It didn't look too temporary'

NEW YORK (AP) — The Houston Rockets' no. 1 reason for trading Ralph Sampson was to strengthen a chronically weak backcourt.

On Tuesday night, sleepy Floyd paid the First Dividend on that trade.

Floyd scored 27 points and fellow guard Allen Leavell added 26, leading the Rockets to a 122-103 victory over Atlanta, snapping a four-game losing streak.

The Hawks, who got 20 points from Dominique Wilkins, never led in the game and the loss ended a five-game winning streak.

Leavell, who hit 11 of 14 shots, expected to be replaced in the starting lineup by Floyd, who was traded to Houston along with Joe Barry Carroll for Sampson and Steve Harris.

Instead, Fitch used them both. "The Floyd-Leavell combo is what they make of it," Fitch said. "It didn't look too temporary tonight."

Floyd was nine of 16 from the field and 8-for-8 at the free throw line, giving the guard combo a 67 per cent average from the field.

In other NBA games, it was Boston 118, Philadelphia 115; Cleveland 106, Washington 102; Dallas 111, Chicago 100; Milwaukee 122, New York 105; Denver 119, Phoenix 104; Sacramento 120, San Antonio 96; and Portland 136, Golden State 91.

Akeem Olajuwon scored 14 points for the Rockets and shared rebound honours with Rodney McCray with 13 each.

But it was Floyd and Leavell who stole the spotlight. "You're not accustomed to seeing their guards play like that," Wilkins said. "They were really performing and it carried over to their big men."

After using 14-3 and 10-0 second-quarter spurts for a 62-48 halftime lead, the Rockets scored the first 10 points of the third quarter and overcame a 15-2 surge by Atlanta to hold a 95-76 advantage going into the final period.

Mavericks 111, Bulls 100. Mark Aguirre scored 32 points for Dallas, but ironically none of them came in the fourth quarter when the Mavericks pulled away.

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Application forms are available from the School (tel. 845572) and should be returned by Thursday 14 January 1988. Please note the School will be closed on 26, 27/12/87 and from 31/12/87 to 2/1/88 and on 7/1/88.

Swiss resume their skiing blitz

BORMIO, Italy (AP) — Pirmin Zurbriggen and Brigitte Oertli led 1-2-3 sweeps by Swiss skiers Tuesday in men's and women's World Cup parallel slaloms.

Zurbriggen, the defending World Cup overall champion, won the men's event by defeating teammate Joel Gaspoz in the two-heat head-to-head final. Another Swiss Martin Hangl, beat Austrian Roland Pfeifer for third place.

Italy's Alberto Tomba, who won five of the first six World Cup races, was eliminated in the quarterfinals here by Pfeifer after straining a back muscle.

Oertli beat Corinne Schmidhauser in the all-Swiss women's final, while teammate and Olympic downhill champion Michela Figini outpaced West German Christa Kinshofer for

third place.

The two races did not count towards individual standings, but added points for nations in World Cup rankings.

Tomba leads the men's standings with 125 points, followed by Zurbriggen with 91 points. Austrians Guenther Mader and Hubert Strolz are third and fourth with 45 and 42 points, respectively.

Zurbriggen reached the finals of the parallel by defeating in quick succession Italy's Carlo Gerosa and his Swiss teammates Hans Pieren and Martin Hangl.

It was Zurbriggen's first victory this season. He finished second in two cup downhill and was shut out by Tomba and Austrian Helmut Mayer in three giant slaloms and three slaloms.

Oertli was a surprise winner

against Schmidhauser, considered Switzerland's slalom specialist.

Figini, who won a downhill and a super-G in Leukerbad, Switzerland, last week, tops the women's standings with 92 points. Blanca Fernandez-Ochoa of Spain is second and Austrian Anita Wachter third with 75 and 70 points respectively.

Women will resume World Cup competition with a giant slalom in Megeve, France, on Jan. 5, while the next men's event will be a downhill in Schladming, Austria, on Dec. 31.

For Tuesday's race, the top-placed skiers decided to give their prize money to a "solidarity" fund for this Alpine valley, known as the Valtellina, where flashfloods and landslides caused massive destruction and many deaths in late July and August.

Little cheer for Beckenbauer, Hoeness

BONN (R) — Former Bayern Munich team-mates Franz Beckenbauer and Uli Hoeness have little reason for Christmas cheer as the West German soccer season enters its two-month mid-winter break.

West German national team chief Beckenbauer and Bayern manager Hoeness are not only concerned about the disappointing results of their sides, they have also become involved in a personal row which does little good for the image of the sport.

Beckenbauer was not amused by Hoeness's joke that the national team's South American tour this month was "a mind-boggling exercise" at a time when players were fired from a strenuous autumn programme.

He responded by talking of the "Munich puppet show," a remark which landed him in hot water with the abrasive Hoeness.

Hoeness cornered "kaiser franz" at the weekend when Beckenbauer went to watch his son play for Bayern amateurs. Reports of their conversation suggest the tone was not exactly friendly.

The outburst of acrimony may well have much to do with the two ex-colleagues' preoccupation

with the plunging fortunes of the West German and Bayern teams.

It is hard to say who has the more pressing problems. Beckenbauer, facing the prospect of starting next June's European championship as favourites because West Germany are hosts, is suddenly wondering where all the goals have gone.

His side has failed to win any of their last four games and scored only two goals along the way, hardly the stuff of which champions are made.

Hoeness has been left to consider whether the choice of Borussia Moenchengladbach's Jupp Heynckes to replace Cologne-bound trainer Udo Lattek was the right one.

Last season Lattek's team suffered only one league defeat as they took their third championship in a row. This season they have already lost five and are three points adrift of Werder Bremen, who have a game in hand and the look of champions about them.

Both men have the headache of dealing with a public for which anything less than top spot is an abject failure.

West Germany have twice won the World Cup and twice the

European title and home fans were convinced the nation was well on the way towards another crown when they followed a 2-1 win over reigning European champions France with a brilliant 3-1 trouncing of England in a September friendly.

Since then it has been downhill all the way. An extremely lucky 1-0 win over Denmark was followed by dull draws with Sweden and Hungary and an uninspired South American tour. A last-minute goal to earn a draw with Brazil salvaged a little honour before the first defeat of the year in a 1-0 loss to world champions Argentina.

"Just because we are at home does not mean we are top favourites for the European title," Beckenbauer said but expectations are high and he might just as well have whistled in the dark.

One problem which has clearly emerged in recent games is that when Rudi Voeller is absent through injury or commitments with club as Roma, West Germany have no reliable goalscorer.

Another is that no-one appears capable of pulling the strings in midfield.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Arrest warrant issued for soccer boss

BOGOTA (R) — A Colombian magistrate issued an arrest warrant on Tuesday against the president of French First Division soccer club Brest who sneaked out of the country last week, Colombia's press agency Colprensa said. Investigating Magistrate Elizabeth Amaya, from Cali, issued the warrant after Brest President Francois Yvinec jumped bail and fled Colombia aboard a small plane after seven weeks of investigation about alleged fraud in a transfer contract. Yvinec arrived in France last Saturday, together with player Roberto Cabanas from the club America of Cali, and denounced to journalists what he called a "parody of justice" in Colombia. The arrest warrant means that Yvinec is subject to immediate arrest if he sets foot on Colombian soil. It was not immediately clear whether Colombian authorities would issue an international arrest warrant and seek Interpol's aid to have Yvinec arrested in France.

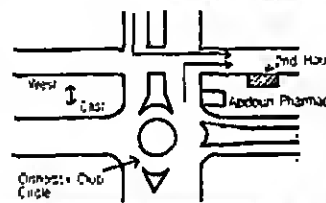
Sabatini voted numero uno

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Teenage tennis star Gabriela Sabatini was declared Argentina's sports personality of the year in a ceremony in Buenos Aires on Monday night. The 17-year-old Sabatini, ranked sixth in the world, was awarded the Olimpia de Oro gold trophy. Last month, Sabatini scored her second upset victory of the year over Martina Navratilova before falling to world number one Steffi Graf of West Germany in the final of the season-ending championship in New York. She then successfully defended her title in the Argentine Open. The award, decided by a vote of the Buenos Aires Sports Journalists' Association, went last year to soccer superstar Diego Maradona, who led Argentina to victory in the World Cup final over West Germany in Mexico.

Athletes warned against using drugs

LONDON (AP) — Britain's top sports authorities called Wednesday for the "steepest possible action" to stop athletes from using anabolic steroids intended for animals. The move by the sports council followed reports that increasing numbers of athletes were using animal drugs because they work quicker than human steroids. Health officials warned that injecting animal drugs could lead to "unknown damage" to humans. Investigators are probing the illegal importation of animal drugs into Britain and believe that Ireland was the main source, with a possible link to the outlawed Irish Republican Army (IRA). "The strongest possible action needs to be taken to stop this obscene abuse of peoples' bodies by drugs which are even banned for use by animals under EEC legislation," John Wheatley, director general of the Sports Council, said. "The moves by ministers and MPs to have steroids included in the misuse of drugs act must be supported."

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INDIAN FILM WEEK

Under the patronage of His Excellency Dr. Nassereddin Al Assad, minister of higher education, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the Jordan-India Friendship Society and the Embassy of India in Amman will be holding an Indian Film Week from 26th December to 31st December at the Royal Cultural Centre.

The films will be screened daily beginning at 6.00 p.m. The admission is free except on 26th December, when it is by invitation.

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VENDETTA

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30


Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 677420

CHILDREN OF A LESSER GOD

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

AERIPT

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: A "  "

(Answers: Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: PAUSE · EMERY · SADIST · PLACIO

Answer: Some members of the younger generation may be alike in many of these—
"OS-RESPECTS"

Gunmen kill Sri Lankan ruling party chairman

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — Sinhalese extremists shot and killed the chairman of President Junius Jayewardene's United National Party (UNP) and three other people Wednesday, authorities said.

The two assassins ambushed the victims' car with a machine gun at an intersection and escaped on a stolen bicycle, army Col. Vijaya Wimalaratna said.

The killings came three days after Mr. Jayewardene vowed to wipe out Sinhalese extremists who have been assassinating his supporters.

United National Party Chairman Harsha Abeywardene, his driver, a bodyguard and another aide were killed when at least 21 bullets were fired at their Korean-made car, a police detective said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The government has blamed the People's Liberation Front (PLF), composed of ultra-nationalist Sinhalese, for the deaths of about 150 policemen, government officials and United National Party members in the past five months.

Col. Wimalaratna, military coordinating officer in Colombo, said the two attackers pedaled up

to a bicycle repair shop near the intersection and asked to have a new tube put in the bike's front tire.

While they waited for the repair job, they stood at a nearby intersection with a Chinese-made T56 submachinegun concealed inside eight wooden planks tied together with string, the colonel said.

A police officer quoted witnesses as saying that while the two men were waiting, two other men rode by on a motorcycle and apparently told the ambushers that Mr. Abeywardene's car was approaching.

When Mr. Abeywardene's car approached the intersection and had to slow down for heavy mid-morning traffic, the ambushers pulled out the machinegun and opened fire.

The car's rear window and side windows were shattered, and there were bullet holes in the front windshield. The inside of the car was covered in blood.

2 killed, 77 hurt in Brazil train collision

NOVA IGUAÇU, Brazil (AP) — A commuter train carrying workers from Rio De Janeiro to slum suburbs collided head-on Tuesday night with an empty train, killing two people and injuring 77, authorities said.

Fifteen of the injured were in critical condition after the rush-hour collision about 64 kilometres north of downtown Rio, a railroad spokesman said.

"Both trains were on the same track, as the southbound line was being repaired," railroad spokesman Helio Barros said. "There must have been a signal failure, because both trains advanced at the same time."

The passenger train carrying some 1,600 commuters smashed into the empty eight-car commu-

ter vehicle at a speed of 60 kph (37 mph), Mr. Barros said.

The first two cars of both trains were completely destroyed, forming an indistinguishable mangled wreckage.

The accident occurred about 6:30 p.m. (2130 GMT) in a remote area in the slum suburb of Nova Iguaçu.

"It was terrifying," said passenger Joao Vargas. "I heard a horrible screech then the next thing I knew I was thrown against the walls of the tilted train. I had to break a window to escape."

Elsa Pinheiro de Souza, who lives in front of the tracks, said she heard "an enormous noise, a crunch."

"I close and open my eyes and could not believe it. People were

Mr. Abeywardene, 43, was elected to his third term as party chairman earlier this month. He was first elected chairman in 1984, advancing from the post of party secretary.

The People's Liberation Front has vowed to kill anyone who supports the July 29 peace pact Mr. Jayewardene signed with India. The accord was designed to end a 4-year-old guerrilla war by Tamil rebels fighting for a separate nation for their ethnic minority.

Many Sinhalese have accused Mr. Jayewardene, himself a Sinhalese, of making too many concessions to the Tamils, who make up 18 per cent of Sri Lanka's 16 million people.

On Sunday, Mr. Jayewardene said members of the front must be killed to end their wave of terror.

"Can we allow terrorists to kill political supporters and officials to this government? We cannot do that. We will have to kill these terrorists," the president told members of his United National Party at a meeting in Hambantota, a southern coastal city in the Sinhalese heartland.

The car's rear window and side windows were shattered, and there were bullet holes in the front windshield. The inside of the car was covered in blood.

Soviets may have own version of SDI

TAMPA, Florida (AP) — The Soviet Union may have harnessed an exotic and powerful explosive process for its own version of a "Star Wars" missile-defence system, an intelligence source familiar with Soviet military systems said.

A fuel air explosion (FAE), which can be as powerful as a small atomic bomb, is achieved by spreading a fine mist of fuel and igniting it. The Soviets plan to use FAEs to intercept U.S. missiles in flight, the source told the Tampa Tribune for Tuesday editions.

The United States also has been experimenting to see if FAEs can be used to counter incoming missiles and to discriminate between dummy and nuclear warheads, said a scientist working on the American programme.

Intelligence officers told experts on the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI), or Star Wars, earlier this month that the Soviet Union experimented with FAEs in space from April 1985 until about three months ago, the intelligence source said. The newspaper said it was not certain when U.S. intelligence discovered the Soviet FAE tests.

During a Dec. 3 meeting at Patrick Air Force Base near Cape Canaveral, the intelligence officers said the Soviet FAE defence is designed to intercept U.S. rockets before they deploy their nuclear warheads, the source told the newspaper.

Such a system would be the first comprehensive defence in the world against intercontinental ballistic nuclear missiles, the newspaper said.

Just before Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev visited Washington earlier this month, he disclosed that the Soviets have been working on their own Star Wars missile defence and urged President Ronald Reagan to either drop his SDI programme or face a new arms race.

Irish Protestant leader killed by IRA car bomb

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP) — An Irish Republican Army (IRA) bomb killed John McMichael, a leading Protestant paramilitary leader, when he started up his car outside his home, police said.

The killing prompted fears there could be an upsurge in violence, with Protestant reprisals, over the usually quiet Christmas period.

Police said the car blew up as Mr. McMichael, 39, turned on the ignition after leaving his home in Lisburn, 13 kilometres south west of Belfast, on Tuesday night.

He suffered severe injuries and died while being raced to a hospital, police said.

Mr. McMichael was second in command of the militant Ulster Defence Association (UDA), the province's largest paramilitary Protestant organisation. Its commander, Andy Tyrrie, described him as the UDA's policy maker and principal voice.

Police said Mr. McMichael was the only person in the car. Earlier reports quoted neighbours as saying his bodyguard also was killed by the bomb.

Seoul president-elect wants formal relations with China

TOKYO (AP) — Establishing diplomatic ties with China after nearly four decades of enmity will be a top priority of South Korea's next government, South Korean President-Elect Roh Tae-Woo said in an interview published in a Japanese newspaper Wednesday.

"Exchanges with the People's Republic of China in the non-political sector have been under way, including economic, sports and cultural exchanges. With the (1988 Seoul) Olympics as an impetus, we will make greater effort to elevate the level of the exchanges," the nationally circulated Asahi Shimbun quoted Mr. Roh as saying in an exclusive interview in Seoul Tuesday.

Mr. Roh, a retired army general, last week won South Korea's first direct presidential election in 16 years. He is scheduled to succeed outgoing President Chun Doo-Hwan in February.

"For closer relations between peoples and nations, direct dialogue helps deepen friendship," Mr. Roh told the newspaper. "South Koreans living in China have recently come to our country and there are signs of improved relations between China and Taiwan," he said.

"Those factors will help improve relations between China and South Korea. More dialogue and more exchanges will lead to a spontaneous development of diplomatic ties," Mr. Roh said.

China fought along with Communist North Korea against South Korea and the U.S.-led United Nations Command during the 1950-53 Korean War.

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2 associates indicted for trying to influence Meese

NEW YORK (AP) — The indictments of three people, including two former associates of U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese III, do not signal an end to the federal inquiry into Mr. Meese and the Wedtech Corp., investigators said.

"We don't know where the end is going to be. We don't know where it is yet," said Thomas L. Sbeeter, head of the FBI's New York office.

Federal prosecutor Rudolph Giuliani announced Tuesday that a Federal Grand Jury had charged Mr. Meese's long-time

friend and former Attorney, E. Robert Wallach, and Meese's former financial manager, W. Franklin Chinn, with racketeering and conspiracy to break racketeering laws. Both are from San Francisco.

R. Keith London, of Honolulu, an associate of Wallach and Chinn, also was indicted on racketeering charges.

The indictment charged the three sought to illegally influence Mr. Meese, the nation's top law enforcer. But the attorney general was not accused of wrongdoing.

COLUMNS 7&8

Goethe Institute to run disco

MUNICH, West Germany (AP) — West Germany's Goethe Institute is planning to operate an "artists' discotheque," to entertain those attending the Seoul Summer Olympic Games next year, officials have said. Ground-breaking ceremonies for a 1,000 person facility is to take place in Seoul the end of February.

Goethe Institute spokesman Kajo Niggestich said. In an interview with the Associated Press, Niggestich said teams of young West German performers will be selected to offer a non-stop, three-week long programme at the discotheque. According to the spokesman, the disco will not only feature music and dancing, but will also include fashion shows and other entertainment.

"Architecture, video and lighting will also play an important role in the project," said Niggestich. The Goethe Institute, working with the West German Foreign Ministry, is involved in numerous projects promoting West Germany's image in foreign countries. Cost for the entire project is estimated at between 3 million marks and 4 million marks (\$1.8 million to \$2.4 million), Niggestich said.

Over one-fifth of S. Koreans called Kim

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — More than a fifth of South Koreans have Kim as their family name, and one-fourth bear the surname Lee or Park, according to a government survey released Wednesday. The survey by the Economic Planning Board said 21.7 per cent of the nation's population of 41 million go by the name Kim, 14.8 per cent are named Lee and 8.5 per cent are Park. It said the other most common names in the nation are Choi, Chung, Kang, Cho, Yun, Chang and Lim. The survey said people with the 10 most common names make up 64.5 per cent of the population, or 26 million people as of Nov. 1, 1985.

Couple cleared of offensive behaviour

DARWIN (R) — Two Australians convicted of offensive behaviour after an off-duty policeman walking his dog watched them having sex on their bedroom floor were exonerated. The Northern Territory supreme court ruled the behaviour of Iris Wurrumura, 29, and Steven Pregelj, 19, did not constitute a punishable act unless they had meant to be seen. Justice Philip Rice said law was not intended to stop sexual intercourse, even if it could be viewed from a street or public thoroughfare. The couple had appealed against a six-month good behaviour bond imposed in Darwin magistrates court in January after a complaint by policeman Anthony Dyer, a neighbour.

Jewels found in tax raids on maharishi

NEW DELHI (R) — Tax raids on four offices of the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi in and around Delhi netted unaccounted Indian and foreign currency totalling about \$30,000 and jewellery worth the same amount, a Finance Ministry source said on Wednesday. The source, quoted by the Press Trust of India, said Tuesday's raids, carried out by 40 tax inspectors escorted by armed police, also turned up incriminating documents. He gave no details. A senior Finance Ministry official said the Directorate of Foreign Exchange Seizures had been informed with a view to possible further action. Although the maharishi's headquarters are in Switzerland, as an Indian citizen he is governed by the strict foreign exchange regulation act which controls the import and export of wealth. Maharishi, 77, better remembered in the West as the guru who instructed the Beatles in the 1960s, was ordered by a U.S. court earlier this year to pay \$138,000 damages to a devotee who had spent 11 years learning his brand of transcendental meditation before denouncing him as a fraud.

Zimbabwe unity agreement opens way for 1-party rule

HARARE (R) — Zimbabwe moved closer to the creation of a one-party Marxist-Leninist state when its two major political parties signed a unity accord.

Prime Minister Robert Mugabe, leader of the ruling ZANU-PF Party (Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front), and the President of ZAPU (Zimbabwe African People's Union), Joshua Nkomo, sealed the pact after two years of negotiations marked by deep-rooted mutual suspicion.

Progress in the talks, which

began in October, 1985, had been impeded by ZANU-PF accusations that ZAPU was behind a rebel insurgency in the south western province of Matabeleland, where Mr. Nkomo draws his main support from the minority Ndebele tribe. ZAPU said the charges were groundless.

Under Tuesday's agreement, the two parties have agreed to commit themselves to establishing a one-party socialist state. Mr. Mugabe's declared goal since assuming power on independence in 1980.

Ershad calls for peace as Bangladesh strike continues

DHAKA (R) — President Hosain Mohammad Ershad has asked Bangladeshis to choose between terrorism and peace, as strikes aimed at forcing his resignation continued across the country on Wednesday.

The opposition-led strikes shut factories and offices for the 15th time since 21 opposition parties began a campaign against Gen.

Ershad on Nov. 10.

Police said that about 50 people were arrested after at least 150 small bombs packed with metal fragments exploded in different parts of the country.

Trains, river ferries and airlines trimmed schedules. Most shops and offices were shuttered, but hundreds of rickshaw drivers defied the strike call.

Sihanouk reportedly to hold 2nd meeting with Hun Sen

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — Kampuchean resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk has told Hun Sen, prime minister of the pro-Vietnamese government in Kampuchea, that he will accept his proposal to resume peace talks next month in France, Vietnamese media reported.

The meeting would put the talks back on track after Sihanouk temporarily cancelled them because his resistance partners were not participating. He changed his mind, and Mr. Hun Sen proposed a second round of talks on Jan. 27.

A brief Vietnam News Agency report seen in Bangkok on Wednesday quoted unspecified "reports from Paris" as saying Sihanouk, in a message released Sunday, "affirmed that he will receive comrade Hun Sen as from Jan. 27, 1988, at the Castle Hindri 4 at Saint-Germain-en-Laye (France)."

Sihanouk heads a three-party guerrilla coalition battling Vietnamese troops and the government they installed in Phnom Penh after invading Kampuchea nine years ago this month and ousting the Khmer Rouge.

Gelli to serve 2 months in Geneva jail before extradition

GENEVA (R) — Italian financier Licio Gelli is to serve two months in a Geneva jail before being extradited to Italy, where he is accused of involvement in crimes including a railway bombing which killed 85 people.

A Geneva criminal court on Tuesday cleared the way for extradition on the condition that Gelli serves a two-month suspended sentence, handed down in 1983, for entering Switzerland on a false passport the previous year.

The three-judge court gave him a 16-month suspended prison term for bribing a Geneva prison guard to help him escape in August, 1983. It also banned him from Switzerland for 10 years.

He pleaded guilty to the bribery charge, which can carry a

sentence of three days to three years.

The fugitive 68-year-old head of Italy's secret P-2 Masonic Lodge turned himself in to Geneva authorities in September, 1987, after four years on the run.

He is to spend two months in Geneva's Champ-Dollon jail before he is extradited to Italy. Switzerland's highest court, the Federal Tribunal in Lausanne, agreed to the principle of extradition in 1983 — shortly after his escape.

Italy has accused Gelli of involvement in an array of sensational crimes, including the 1980 Bologna Railway Station bombing, which killed 85 people, and the collapse of the Vatican-linked Banco Ambrosiano in 1982.

'Vast loopholes' for fraud found in Haiti electoral law

KINGSTON (R) — Jamaican Prime Minister Edward Seaga on Tuesday sharply criticised new voting rules announced in Haiti and urged the military-led government to remove itself from the electoral process.

Mr. Seaga told a news conference the electoral decrees issued by the government of Lt.-Gen. Henri Namphy on Sunday "open vast loopholes for electoral maladministration and fraud."

Mr. Seaga said a five-member group of Caribbean leaders which visited Haiti earlier this month to discuss the Nov. 29 elections, aborted after gunmen killed more than 30 people, had gone "not to embrace the government but to

confront the government." "It is quite obvious that the Haitian government did not go the route we advised," Mr. Seaga said.

Earlier, Prime Minister John Compton of St. Lucia, chairman of the 13-nation Caribbean Community (Caricom), urged Haiti's military leaders to postpone new elections set for Jan. 17 and seek outside aid to assure a fair vote.

Mr. Seaga told reporters that although he disagreed with the government's handling of the new elections, the army is still the only institution in Haiti capable of providing effective governmental authority.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

Edited by Herb Etteson

ILL-LITERACY
By Arthur S. Verdesca

ACROSS
1 Long time
2 Unyielding
3 Wander
4 Spectral
5 Jewel flower
6 Composer
7 Adjective
8 With 103A, front legless?
9 Chicken's minding
10 Sift
11 Silkworm
12 Gizzard
13 Sleeping
14 Dickens' carrier
15 Consoling
16 Values
17 Wagers
18 12 and 35 e.g.
19 Moon goddess
20 Lunt of stage

DOWN
1 See 1010
2 Sagan
3 Neighborhood
4 Inlet
5 Small sofas
6 Genders
7 Delicacy
8 G. letters
9 Delant
10 Pairs
11 Emigrants
12 Weathercock
13 Der. river
14 Shakespeare's
15 Gelin driver?
16 Ex — (one-sided)
17 Charged particle
18 Rant
19 Found. abbr.
20 Continued
21 High nest
22 Rabbit or fox

38 Established
39 Milk oligo
40 Nostril
41 Black ice
42 With 67A, Henry
43 Flower
44 Upstart?
45 Victuals
46 Passage
47 Spicy stew
48 Pinapples
49 Donkey cry
50 Dextrose
51 US\$B range
52 Title
53 Consoling
54 Bessie
55 Stranger
56 Yes or John
57 Table
58 Centrepiece

63 Cloth, atropos
64 Lichens
65 Military e.g.
66 Rascal old style
67 Lecher
68 See 44A
69 Swirls
70 Clean symbol
71 Bend the head
72 Tonic seeds
73 Sleepy
74 Motorcar
75 Abrasive type
76 Hll show letters
77 Canal
78 Sp. province
79 Mink. post.
80 Moderates
81 "Don
82 Jolson"
83 Flashback line
84 Knitting pattern

86 Animal
87 Slay
88 Ballet movement
89 Woodchuck
90 Footwear
91 Trojan lane
92 Govt. agency
93 Sound of
94 Dipping water
95 Dickens' novel of
96 Falls & Garfield?
97 Domestic
98 See 52A
99 Double-bond
100 compound
101 Milk. post.
102 Short time ago
103 abdr.
104 God of love
105 Farm fractions
106 Asia. river

84 "And — but"
85 J. with 87D.
86 Melville's gum
87 Injury
88 Sembrance
89 Activities
90 Small
91 Mags
92 Mags
93 Buddy
94 Salmagundi
95 Despot
96 Not any
97 See 86J
98 Prohibit
99 R — Roger
100 With 10 & 350.
101 MacDonald's
102 "Life with a
103 Salvoes?"
104 Govt. gp.
105 Gr. letter

Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Your peppy yellow puppy yelped and yowled until my unhappy puppy promptly popped him.
2. Former grain farmer decided to grow alfalfa for cow silage instead.
3. Head over heels in love, noted acrobat lost his balance.
4. Daff farmer apes super star in professional meet at famous stadium.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. ACEFGDT HIJLMND BIN INLMO. "HPCCT
BIRD I XJXLMJ?" NGM FDI ZED PA ZEJO
NMMO BGMN NGM IRNBMJO. "RP BIT"

—By Conale Rosenfeld

2. XC X LRTIO' MXCFINREM GN JGYRCXZY
ZGTEICRE. CFINTO JGLIN RE CFI KRN

—By Gordon Miller

3. ZTVWZHO UMY ZTVFZHTRF5 ZUZMCHRFUI
WHO CUOR FRO HISTORYHC VUORO.

—By Barbara J. Rags

4. SEKT RAMPT UVMF "FAYZODK ILS"
GLITCHLV: "POT JTEP ILER ZILCK MU FEGT
LCH FIC LYT AKALIID LJMAP TRALL"

—By Len Sherry

SOLUTIONS OF
LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
©1987 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

THE MAGIC NUMBER

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ A Q 4
♥ A Q 10 9 5
♦ 9
♣ A 8 3 2

EAST
♠ 6 3
♥ 8 6 2
♦ A 5 7 2
♣ A 7

SOUTH
♠ 10 8 7 5
♥ 7 3
♦ Q 8 4 3
♣ 10 6 5

WEST
♠ 6 3
♥ 8 6 2
♦ A 5 7 2
♣ A 7

The bidding:
North 1♣ South 1NT
West 2♣ East 2NT
South 3NT West 3NT
East 4NT West 4NT
South 5NT West 5NT
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100♠ Pass 100♠ Pass

In duplicate, much of the strategy of defensive play centers around scoring 200 points. That is known as the "magic number" because it scores more than any part score the defenders might have collected had they not elected to defend.

Overcalls on four-card suits are not usually recommended, but on this hand from the recent Fall